

SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS & SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

WINTER 2008-09 GUIDE



- Activities in the Parks • page 3
- Road & Safety Tips / Finding Gasoline • page 5
- Highlights in Sequoia Park • page 6
- Highlights in Kings Canyon & USFS • page 7

- page 8 • Facilities & Ranger Programs in Sequoia
- page 9 • Facilities & Programs in Kings Canyon & USFS
- page 10 • Camping & Lodging / Bears & Your Food
- page 12 • Park Road Map



Plowing the parks

"It's 2:30 a.m. and I stare at the snow-depth stick outside my window with a flashlight. Another ten inches in the last six hours!"

Stuart Nuss's first order of business on such mornings? Calling out the other plow operators. Some get roused out of warm beds in the parks; others come up from the valley. They, and the mechanics that maintain their equipment, respond seven days a week.

"Our first priority is plowing to the lodges and residences," continued Stuart, "so that there is access for our ambulance and fire truck in case of emergency."

"Secondary roads and parking lots are next. When those are as good as conditions allow, we start north on the Generals Highway from Lodgepole and south from Grant Grove."

Sometimes the road between Lodgepole and Grant Grove stays closed for weeks, and reopening can be a major undertaking. Avalanches and fallen trees cross the road along with the heavy snow. "We may just get it open when Mother Nature does it all over again," said Stuart patiently.

Plow operators share the experience of driving large machines on steep, curving roads – in the dark. "Some of the scariest things happen running the rotary plows," said Kirk Stiltz. "They are really heavy – up to 60,000 pounds. There are times when you're operating right on the edge of a steep bank. It's a very tense – and intense – situation."

They've all felt the machine beneath them start to slide. "I came around a curve," remembered Tom McCarthy, "and here was a towtruck helping a stuck car. Although I was going slow, I had to turn to avoid a box of chains they'd left in the road, and I slid sideways right into that car."

Michael Botkin watches approaching cars closely. "I see if their tires are rolling. If they're not, I know their brakes are locked and they're sliding."

Which leads to sage advice from all of the operators: *When you see a plow coming, go slowly but keep moving. Don't stop or ask the plow to stop.*



Either or both of you might start sliding. And don't assume that, having passed one plow, you won't see another.

"Not everyone recognizes that conditions change drastically from the valley to up here," said Stuart, "or that they change from one curve to the next. We try to get people to carry a good set of chains and to obey the road restriction signs – they're there for a reason."

Operating a plow here means sharing the darkness with wildlife. "You get an idea of where they're hanging out from seeing their tracks night after night," said Paul Sakaguchi.

"Especially after a heavy snow, you see bear and deer tracks heading downhill, bailing out," Kirk noted.

"Early one morning a mountain lion leaped off a snowbank into the road in front of me," remembered Stuart. "It looked at me, frozen in the headlights, and then was gone. It pretty well covered an entire lane, from nose to tail."

These operators also share a fellowship of sunrises and solitude:

"Despite the long hours, cold and wet conditions, there is really nothing more spectacular than a sunrise over the Sierra," said Stuart.

Paul agreed. "Sometimes you're working the storm into the morning and you see the sun rise. It shines on large ice crystals and looks like there's glitter all over the place. You're the only one out there and it's undisturbed. You get that feeling of solitude."

"When the road is closed behind and in front of you, and the sun is breaking out in a pure blue sky...." That's Tom's favorite part.

Kirk appreciates the storm-washed air. "I really enjoy, time and again, how clear the air is early in the morning when it's been snowing all night – how far across the valley you can see. That's one of the pleasures."

Getting up at 2:30 on a winter morning – at least in Sequoia and Kings Canyon – has a few very special rewards.

~ Remembering Stuart Nuss, former Engineering Equipment Operator Foreman

WELCOME TO SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON

Get to know these parks!

Given the names of these parks, you expect giant trees and huge canyons — and you won't be disappointed. Yet the whole of the parks is even greater than the sum of their famous parts.

Rising from 1300' to 14,494', these parks protect a spectacular elevational range. This span from low to high means dramatic shifts from hot foothills to shady forests to the cold High Sierra. It means extraordinarily diverse plants and animals living in extremely varied conditions. It means steep roads and trails that climb mountains, and cold rivers that plunge down from their heights.

There is diversity, too, in the caretakers of this landscape. Bordering these two national parks is a national monument, which is part of a national forest. A U.S. Geological Survey Field Station conducts research here. The Sequoia Natural History Association sells books and maps at visitor centers and contributes to education and research. The Sequoia Parks Foundation supports significant park projects.

Other partners, public and private, cooperate with the Park Service to meet a challenging mission — providing for public enjoyment while keeping the parks unimpaired for future generations. You are an equally important partner! Experience these parks fully: Learn all you can and join in preserving them. Together we can meet this inspiring goal:

*The National Park Service
cares for special places
saved by the American people
so that all may experience
our heritage.*

PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
No coins needed.

24-Hour Park Information
1-559-565-3341 (NPS)
www.nps.gov/seki

National Forest Information
1-559-338-2251 (USFS)
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Yosemite Information (NPS)
1-209-372-0200
www.nps.gov/yose

California Road Conditions
1-800-427-7623 (Caltrans)

Partners in the Parks

The following organizations work together to provide this guide, first published in 1974 as *The Sequoia Bark*. It is published by the Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) and printed by Willems Commercial Printing:

National Park Service (NPS)

Malinee Crapsey, Editor
1-559-565-3341
www.nps.gov/seki

Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)

1-559-565-3759
www.sequoiahistory.org

Sequoia Parks Foundation

1-559-739-1668
www.sequoiafund.org

U.S. Forest Service (FS)

1-559-784-1500
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNCPR)

1-888-252-5757
www.visitsequoia.com

Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)

1-866-KCANYON (522-6966)
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

1-559-565-3171
www.werc.usgs.gov

Page 1 illustrations ©SNHA by Rick Wheeler

WELCOME

You may borrow the park map & guide in Braille at visitor centers.

BIENVENUE

Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

BIENVENIDOS

Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los centros de visita.

WILKOMMEN

Eine Landkarte ist auch in Deutscher Sprache im Besucher Zentrum erhaeltlich.

BENVENUTI

La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.

PARK, FOREST, OR MONUMENT?

What is the difference between Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Giant Sequoia National Monument?

Each is on federal land. Each exists to benefit society. Yet each has a different history and purpose. Together they provide a wide spectrum of uses.

National parks strive to keep landscapes unimpaired for future generations. They protect natural and historic features while offering light-on-the-land recreation.

Park rangers work for the National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior.

National forests, managed under a "multiple use" concept, provide services and commodities that may include lumber, cattle grazing, minerals, as well as recreation with and without vehicles. Forest rangers work for the U.S. Forest Service, an agency in the Department of Agriculture.

Both agencies manage wilderness and other areas where they strive for maximum protection of natural resources. For example, part of Sequoia National Forest has been designated Giant Sequoia National Monument to emphasize protection of sequoias.

Parks, forests, and monuments may have different rules in order to meet their goals. Read "Where can I..." on the next page to learn what activities are permitted where. Despite confusion over names, we get a wide range of benefits from these diverse areas.



FEES HELP YOUR PARKS!

Most of your entrance and camping fees stay here. The parks invest them in important projects that improve visitor facilities and protect park resources. In recent years, fees have paid for repairing and upgrading roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They have improved visitor centers, updated exhibits, and modernized naturalist slide programs.

ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS

- **7-day pass for Sequoia & Kings Canyon, and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM):** \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.
- **12-Month Pass for Sequoia & Kings Canyon, and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/GSNM:** \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year from month of purchase. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **12-Month: America the Beautiful Interagency Annual Pass:** Cost \$80. Valid for entrance fees at Federal recreation sites including National Parks, National Forests, FWS, BLM, & Bureau of Reclamation. Admits all passengers in a single private non-commercial vehicle where per-vehicle fees are charged, or the passholder plus up to 3 persons (age 16 & older) for per-person fee areas, for 12 months. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Seniors: America the Beautiful Interagency Pass:** \$10 one-time fee buys a lifetime pass for entrance fees for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over. (Previously issued Golden Age passes remain valid.) Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Accessibility: America the Beautiful Interagency Access Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documentation to any park entrance station or visitor center. (Previously issued Golden Access passes remain valid.) Not valid at Crystal Cave.

Partner with parks

Two non-profit park partners can help you to help the parks, and *everyone* benefits:

Become a member of the Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) and get discounts in park book stores and on activities including seminars, the winter Pear Lake Ski Hut, and the summer tours in Crystal Cave. Join at any visitor center or go online at www.sequoiahistory.org.



Pear Lake Ski Hut, operated by the Sequoia Natural History Association, sits in a granite basin high above Lodgepole. At 9,200 feet elevation (2804m), it is surrounded by glistening snowfields, icy rock walls, and a deep blue sky. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunk-beds and warm wood-pellet stove. It's a great opportunity to experience the winter glory of the High Sierra. Call 559-565-3759 (reservations are required) and check the website above for winter travel seminars with the SNHA.

The Sequoia Parks Foundation also helps the parks to beat tight budgets. Its mission: Find ways to finance important projects that the parks could not otherwise afford. Be part of the action!

A major new effort to fund the exciting Ranger in the Classroom program is underway. The Foundation has also started an initiative to explore the parks through art and to develop new perspectives about the meaning of these fabulous parks. Their list of accomplishments is long and varied. Ask for information at a visitor center, or go to www.sequoiaparksfoundation.org to learn how you can help advance your interests in these parks.



Beetle Rock Center in the Giant Forest would not exist without the help of the Sequoia Parks Foundation. They funded the remodel of this historic building into an education center. Together with the SNHA, they made use of this great facility possible for us all.

Free Activities

WALKS & TALKS Free ranger-led talks, walks, or snowshoe walks may be offered at Giant Forest, Wuksachi, Grant Grove, and the Foothills. See pages 8 and 9 or check bulletin boards and visitor centers to see what is scheduled.

VISITOR CENTERS & PARK STORES Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy. Park stores in each visitor center sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Remember: All your purchases in visitor centers help to support the parks! See pages 8 and 9 for details.

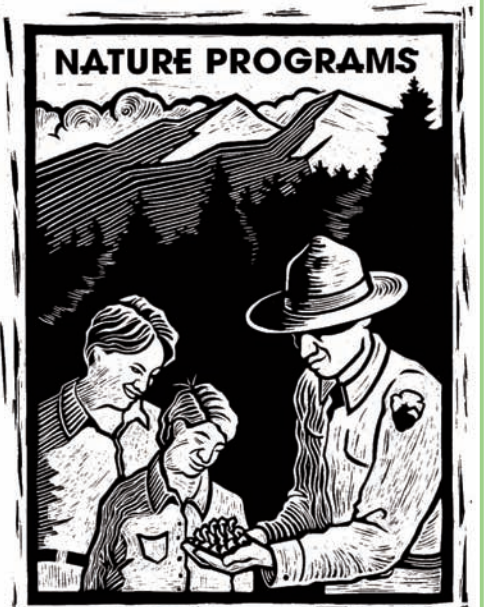
JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM - FREE

People of all ages earn a badge while helping to protect resources. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award. If you are 9 to 12 years old, work for a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn an Arrowhead Award. Pick up a free Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions and have fun!

TEACHERS:

- BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS! Fun, curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th-grades in spring and fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, and other cultural history. For details or to reserve a date, call 1-559-565-4303.

- RANGER IN YOUR CLASSROOM! Bring the parks to your elementary students and let them discover these world-famous parks from their own classroom. Call 1-559-565-3733 to learn more.



WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different areas - a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest and Monument (USFS). Some activities that are illegal in the Park may be legal in the Forest (see page 2 to learn more). Use a map to know where you are!

WALK A PET? *In the Parks:* Not on any trails but it's o.k. 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). *In National Forest:* Pets can go on trails. *In both areas:* Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.

COLLECT THINGS? *Not in the Parks:* Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. *In National Forest:* Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. *In both areas:* Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.

SNOWMOBILE? *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Only on designated snowmobile routes. Snowmobile trailheads are at Big Meadows, Quail Flat, & Cherry Gap. For information: 1-559-243-4005.

GO CAMPING? *In the Parks:* Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. *In National Forest:* In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road, no further.

GO PICNICKING? See picnic symbols on map (back page). Never leave food unattended! Check bulletin boards for fire restrictions. Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Halstead, Powdercan, Lodgepole, & Crescent Meadow.

HAVE A FIRE? *In the Parks:* Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. *In National Forest:* Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves and lanterns. Some areas are more restricted than others. Get permits at Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (in Grant Grove) or USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.

RIDE A BICYCLE? *In the Parks:* Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). *In the National Forest:* Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. *In both areas:* Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People younger than 18 must wear helmets.

DRIVE OFF-ROAD? *Not in either area.* Stay on roads.

HUNT? *Not in the Parks.* Fire-arms must be unloaded, inoperable & stored in way that prevents ready use prior to entering national parks. *In National Forest:* Only during the season with a license. Call 1-559-243-4005.

CUT WOOD? *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.

GO FISHING? *In both areas:* Permitted during the season; California fishing licenses required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.

• RIDE HORSEBACK

Closed until late spring. Call regarding hourly rides, backcountry spot trips, & guided trips then.

Cedar Grove
1-559-565-3464 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

Grant Grove
1-559-335-9292 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

Horse Corral
at Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest
1-559-565-3404 summer
1-559-564-6429 off season
1-559-679-3573 cell

Change: Natural & unnatural

We often think of parks as outdoor museums. Caretaking a living ecosystem, however, is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit. Both are changing all the time. How we take care of those features and facilities may also affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone monitor that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities such as revegetation, road work, painting, or trail maintenance. Some activities may unavoidably affect you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire, campsite closures due to revegetation, or bear management.

The park staff uses such actions as tools to maintain the landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you but a snapshot of this process; Nature decides the timing of many of these actions. They all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now and in the future.



Fire in the Sierra usually hugs the ground. Its low flames clear dangerous built-up fuels. Without it, these fuels would feed intense, hard-to-control wildfires. The natural burn pattern includes occasional hot spots. These leave important openings in the forest — the sunny, bare places where sequoia trees regenerate best.

©NPS Photo

Making (Fire) History

In the summer of 1965, a young researcher named Richard Hartesveldt completed experiments at Redwood Mountain Grove in Kings Canyon National Park. He wanted to determine the effects that a century of fire suppression had on giant sequoia groves.

By today's standards, it was an exercise on a small scale — he "treated" just 12 acres with fire. This first experiment showed that sequoia seedlings flourished after a fire.

Three years later of additional evidence later, these parks shifted fire-management policy from full suppression to include managing prescribed fire and lightning fires that improved forest health. That year park staff completed the 800-acre Rattlesnake Creek Prescribed Fire and managed the first lightning fire in National Park Service history on Kennedy Ridge.

As park resource managers reflect upon the past 40 years of fire science, it's appropriate to consider the significance of the work done here in the 1960s.

Although attitudes toward fire were changing, these researchers were making history, and it was not easy. The public and much of the fire-fighting community still believed that wildland fire was nothing but destructive and deadly.

The idea that wildland fire was a natural event like rain or snow, that it could improve the beauty and health of an ecosystem, that the parks' very reason for existence — the giant sequoias — might actually thrive with a natural fire cycle, was a radical departure in thought.

But the conviction that fire belonged in the forest grew from clear evidence, and the willingness to act on it was commendable. It earned a place in resource history for these parks, and a reputation for park management based on good science that continues to this day.

WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

Each park trail has a daily entry quota for overnight trips, and between late May and late September a wilderness camping fee of \$15 is required. The quota and fee are used to help protect your wilderness environment and experience. (They are not required for day hikes, or for overnights in the adjacent Monarch and Jennie Lakes wildernesses in US Forest Service. However, a free fire permit is required for any open flame on USFS land.)

A permit is required for each overnight trip. Reserved and first-come, first-served permits are issued the morning of your trip or after 1pm the day before at the park permit station/visitor center nearest your trailhead (see pages 8 & 9). If the quota for your preferred trail is full, you can choose another trail for that day or another day to start, if space is available. Permits are not issued after mid-afternoon as minimum distances must be reached before you camp.

Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date are accepted beginning March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date.

Reserved permits must be picked up either the afternoon before or by 9am on the day of departure. If delayed, call the Wilderness Office or you may lose the reservation.

Camping in the park's "front-country" is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pull-outs, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.
47050 Generals Highway #60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

For more details, visit Wilderness Information at www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm or call.

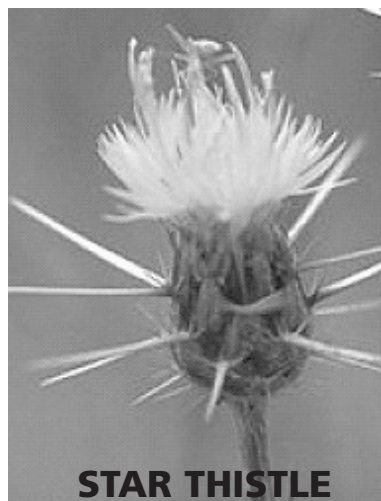
HIGH SIERRA LODGE

• **BEARPAW MEADOW CAMP**
(DNCPR) www.visitsequoia.com
Reservations (required) taken starting 7am, 01/02/008: 1-888-252-5757. Open mid-June to mid-September. This tent hotel is at 7800' on the High Sierra Trail, an 11-mile hike from Giant Forest.

Unnatural change: Alien invaders!

Plants and animals evolve together in communities over time. Often they keep each other in check. When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly since the competitors, predators and diseases they evolved with in their home communities are not here. They break links in the local web of life, badly disrupting species that depend on each other. Sometimes they completely replace native plants and animals.

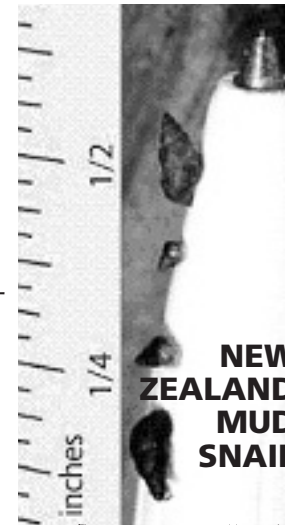
Practice alien hygiene! Look for seeds and tiny animals attached to shoes, clothes, waders, equipment, tires, and pet fur. Wash mud from under cars and on tires before coming into the parks. The natives will thank you!



Two immediate threats:

Star thistle is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny patches completely exclude native plants, and limit wildlife movements. Not yet established here! If you recognize it from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in.

New Zealand Mud Snails take over waterways that they invade, eating most of the food. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population! They stick on gear; check boots & waders thoroughly for this tiny invader. Common just east of the parks. Could easily be carried into the Sierra.



YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

Natural areas present hazards. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. Wild animals, uneven ground, and changing weather can pose dangers. People may create other hazards through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims were walking or climbing near rivers and unexpectedly fell in.

The Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

Be Safe!

DROWNING is the #1 cause of death in national parks! Be extra careful along rivers and streams; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength.

PLAGUE: Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

POISON OAK: This common shrub grows up to 5000 feet elevation: Red leaves with whitish berries in fall, bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of the plant, wash skin and clothes right away.



TICKS: Common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.



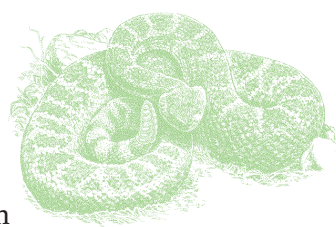
GIARDIA in lakes and streams can cause intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water at least 3 minutes.

HYPOTHERMIA: This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

RATTLESNAKES Watch

where you put your hands and feet!

Snakes, especially common in the foothills, are protected; do not kill them. Most bites result from teasing or handling. Very few people die, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic and call 911.



LIGHTNING: If you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

WEST NILE VIRUS is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

CARBON MONOXIDE: This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces such as a tent, camper, or RV.

OZONE POLLUTION: See air-quality index forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. These peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state and federal standards and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

CELL PHONES rarely work well in these mountains; don't rely on them. Note where pay telephones are available (see pages 8 & 9).

COUGARS roam throughout the parks, but chances of seeing one are very small. They rarely attack people and pets, but be aware. Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. If you see a cougar, the goal is to convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous to it:

- Don't run. Cougars associate running with prey and give chase.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the lion.
- Pick up children.
- If the lion acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings.

EXPLORE SAFELY: Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Beware of uneven or slippery surfaces. Wear sunglasses and sunscreen. Share roads and trails with people and wildlife.

SAFE DRINKING WATER: The parks' 13 water systems are tested to ensure that they meet state and federal standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available at visitor centers.

OPERATION NO-GROW: Prevent illegal marijuana growing! Keep your parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities! Report suspicious activities to 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

Road rules

EXPECT ICY, SLICK ROADS

SLOW DOWN. Sudden speed or stopping causes skids. Allow six seconds of stopping distance between cars. Check antifreeze, battery, wipers, chains and road conditions before you come: 24-hour recorded information 1-559-565-3341 (press 9, then 4). Motorcycles: avoid oil buildup in center of lanes.

ALWAYS CARRY CHAINS

that fit your tires. Obey signs to use them. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Snow tires are often required. Most cars have them; check the side of the tire for M/S, M+S, or a snowflake.

GET SNOW OFF CAR ROOFS

It slides onto the windshield and blocks the driver's vision.

DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES

Always downshift going downhill. In automatic cars, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L.

SNOWPLOWS RULE

Plows may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, slow down but don't stop. Watch for signals from the plow operator.

EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS

For a tow: 1-559-565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, AAA is available for out-of-gas, lock outs, minor repairs, jump starts: 1-559-565-4070 (24 hours).

FILL YOUR GAS TANK FIRST

No gas stations lie within the park; only Grant Grove Market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in nearby Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or the National Forest's Hume Lake (1-559-335-2000) year-round 24 hours with credit card: 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.

BICYCLES

Ride only on roads (not trails), single file, with traffic, and wear light colors after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

LENGTH ADVISORY

On the 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia Park, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum limit on the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15m) for vehicles plus a towed unit. Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car, camp in the foothills and use the car to explore.

WINTER ROAD CLOSURES

IN KINGS CANYON PARK & NATIONAL FOREST/MONUMENT –

- **Generals Highway** (the main park road) closes for plowing between Wuksachi & Grant Grove during & after storms. Depending on snowfall, closure may be brief or last for weeks.
- **Highway 180 to Cedar Grove** closes mid-November until late April due to rockfall.
- **Redwood Mountain Road** is unpaved. Not plowed.

- **Panoramic Point Road** closes with first snow. No trailers or motorhomes.

- **Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (FS):** All are partially unpaved and close with snow.

IN SEQUOIA –

- **Crystal Cave Road** closes late October to mid-May.
- **Mineral King Road** reopens 5/22/09 (snowmelt permitting).
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road** closes with first snows. Reopens with spring melt.
- **South Fork Road** is partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.
- **Road to Middle Fork Trail** is unpaved; slippery when wet. Road closes for winter; park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area.

LET OTHERS PASS BUT STAY ON PAVEMENT

Slower vehicles *must* use paved turnouts to let traffic pass. Park and drive only on pavement to protect plants and soils and to avoid fires.

GO SLOW FOR WILDLIFE!



THE FOOTHILLS

The lower elevations offer wonderful winter visits -- green and usually snowless! There is more biological diversity (different kinds of plants and animals) in the foothills than in the conifer forests and High Sierra combined. Flowers appear in January. Ticks usually appear in December; watch for them and poison oak (see page 5).

HOSPITAL ROCK PICNIC AREA:

Western Mono people once lived here; exhibits offer insight into their lifestyle. A trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall; 1/4-mile round-trip. Be careful! Drownings often occur here.

MARBLE FALLS: This trail climbs 3.9 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a lovely cascade. Park near site #14 at Potwisha Campground. Follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch. The trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

PARADISE CREEK: Park at Hospital Rock and walk to Buckeye Flat Campground. Follow the footpath across from site #26 & cross the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail then follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for just over 1-1/2 mile

(1.6 km) before growing faint.

MIDDLE FORK: Leading through chaparral to highcountry, the first miles offer views of Moro Rock and Castle Rocks. Park at Hospital Rock. Walk toward Buckeye Flat Campground but turn left on the dirt road before the campground. Go 1.3 miles (2 km) to a parking area. Panther Creek Falls is 3 miles (5 km) beyond that. Use caution at stream crossings.

SOUTH FORK

These trails start at tiny South Fork Campground (closed for winter), at the end of a 13-mile road that leaves Hwy 198 at the west end of Three Rivers. This partly unpaved road can be very slippery when wet.

LADYBUG: Hike along the South Fork of the Kaweah River in the upper foothills (moderately steep). From the campground, cross the river via footbridge. The trail ends 3 miles (5 km) up at one of the lowest-elevation sequoia groves.

GARFIELD: A steep 5-mile (8.3 km) one-way climb to Garfield sequoia grove. Start on the south side of the river in the campground.

High

WINTER EXPLORING

BE SAFE: Review safety advice on page 5. Orient yourself before heading out. You are on your own in the winter.

TRAVEL ON SNOW: There is plenty to learn about skiing or snowshoes. You don't need to go to the store to enjoy the snowy forest.

WALKERS & SNOWSHOERS: Avoid wet snow. It will harden and catch ski tips, making it dangerous.

GET TO KNOW THE SNOW FOREST: Snow-covered branches catch less snow, minimizing the amount of snow that falls. Conifer needles are tough and slippery, so they don't break easily.

WATCH FOR WILDLIFE SIGNS: Deer, weasels, coyotes, and Douglas squirrels are active year-round. Bears may stay active, so continue to be cautious. Winter birds greet you from the trees: rufous-breasted nuthatches, brown creepers, and many others. Name a few. Look for the sweep of wings of a rodent for dinner.

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

GIANT FOREST

Rent snowshoes and cross-country skis downstairs at Wuksachi Lodge, and purchase a ski-trail map. Talk to a ranger, then carefully follow the yellow triangular markers above eye level on trees (other than sequoias).

GIANT FOREST MUSEUM: The best place to start your visit and learn about the Big Trees.

BIG TREES TRAIL: This 2/3-mile (1 km) trail (no yellow markers) circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Park at Giant Forest Museum or, once it is plowed, the small lot near Round Meadow. Then ski or snowshoe on either side of the road (not *in* the road). When there's no snow, paved trails lead from the north end of the museum plaza, around the meadow, and back via the other side of the road.

GENERAL SHERMAN TREE:

Once much snow flies, access to the world's largest tree is from the parking area along the Generals Highway. The trail from there is not plowed, but snow is usually packed down enough to walk on it. Through mid-winter, if conditions permit, the upper trail and

parking stay open (take the Wolverton Road between the Sherman Tree and Lodgepole and follow signs). From there you walk down to the tree. While this upper option is open, the lower parking area along the Generals Highway requires an accessibility permit for parking. If the upper trail is too steep and you don't have an official placard, just ask for one at any visitor center. If you can walk down but not back up, have your driver pick you up at the lower parking area on the Generals Highway.

ALONG MORO ROCK/ CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD

This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road closes in winter to become a ski and snowshoe trail. It begins at the Giant Forest Museum on the Generals Highway, explores the southwest portions of the sequoia grove, and ends at Crescent Meadow. Highlights include:

MORO ROCK: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot / 91 m elevation gain). Don't climb if there is any ice or snow on the stairs;

it is very dangerous. A spectacular view of the Great Western Divide and the western half of the park. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.

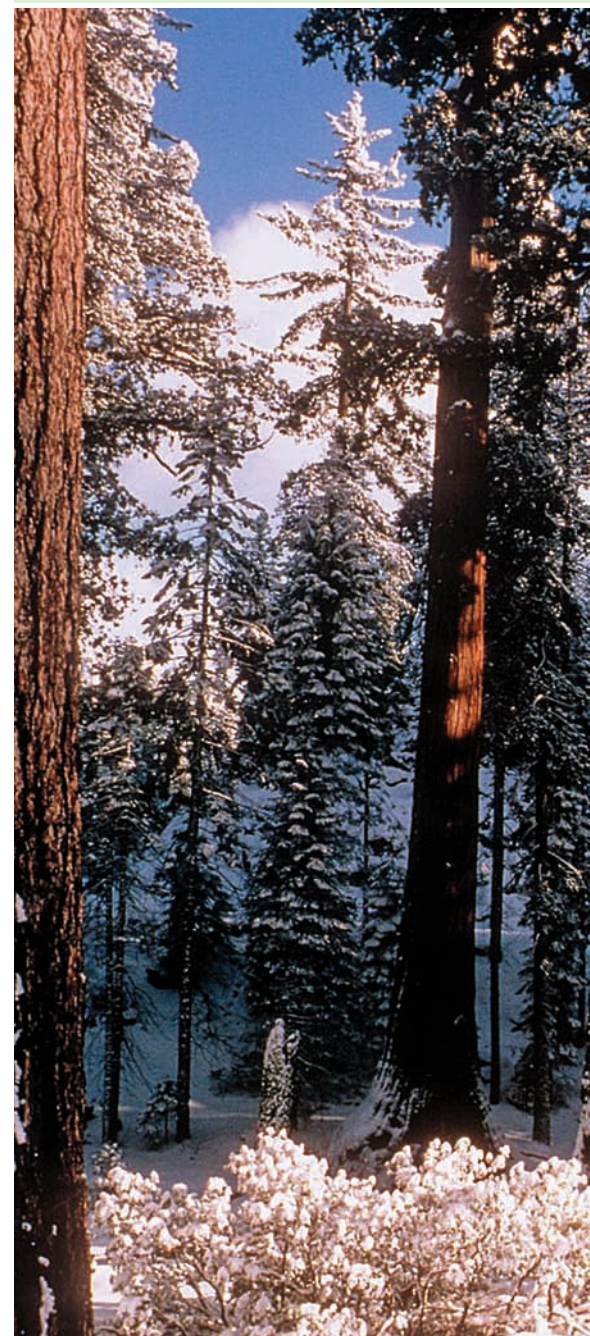
TUNNEL LOG: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through. The only tree you can ski through in these parks. 2.7 miles (4.3 km) from the Generals Highway.

CRESCENT MEADOW: Several trails connect here. It is 1 mile (1.6 km) from here to Tharp's Log, the hollow fallen sequoia lived in by Giant Forest's first settler. The summer High Sierra Trail runs 71 miles (114 km) to Mt. Whitney (highest peak in the lower 48 states @ 14,494 feet / 4417 m).

MINERAL KING



The steep road to this subalpine valley closed at the park boundary as of November 1; it reopens May 22, if weather permits. Skis or snowshoes are required for winter visits. Page 8 has more details.



lights

page 5. Carry a map, warm clothes, and
out and tell someone where you are
winter woods.

try to see from wintry roadsides, but try
to go far or fast, and it's a great way to

id walking in ski tracks. Your footprints
dangerous for skiers. Watch out for ice.

EST: Conical-shaped trees evolved to
unt that weighs them down. Flexible
has piled up when it gets too heavy.
ry, so snow tends to slide off easily.

Deer, mountain lions, bobcats, martens,
els (called chickarees) may be active all
ue to store food properly (see page 10).
s: ravens, juncos, chickadees, red-
s, and white-headed woodpeckers, to
ings in the snow where an owl caught a



GRANT GROVE

The only plowed trail is the Grant Tree loop. Beware of slipping on ice on the path!

Rent skis or snowshoes at the Grant Grove Market. Buy a ski trail map and follow the colored markers on trees. See pages 8-9 for details on snowplay areas.

KINGS CANYON PARK VISITOR CENTER:

See the exhibits and film to get to know this park.

TALKS & SNOWSHOE WALKS:

Check local schedules to see if a ranger-led walk is taking place. Snowshoes are loaned for free!

GENERAL GRANT TREE:

The only trail in the area that is plowed in winter. General Grant is the world's third-largest living tree (see 83rd Annual story below). Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. A guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

PANORAMIC POINT ROAD:

Once snow flies this becomes a ski or snowshoe trail to a spectacular vista of the High Sierra. Park at Grant Village, go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the sign "Panoramic Point 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." It's 1/4 mile (.4 km) up to the viewpoint. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

NEARBY VIEWPOINTS

OVERLOOKS & VIEWS: For a view of the High Sierra, drive to **Kings Canyon Overlook**, about 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove on the Generals Highway.

For a look out over the Kings Canyon, drive the Hume Lake Road, 8 miles (13 km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

About 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat junction, **Redwood Canyon**

Overlook faces west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. Early studies in this grove revealed the strong positive relationship between fire and sequoia reproduction.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore some of Giant Sequoia National Monument, a part of Sequoia National Forest (see page 2 for details). Check page 5 for road closures.

Three USFS trailheads offer snowplay, cross-country ski trails, and snowmobile routes. Rent skis, snowshoes, or buy snowplay equipment at Grant Grove or Montecito Lake Resort (see page 9 for details). Ask for information and a map at Kings Canyon Visitor Center:

- **Cherry Gap** is on Highway 180 2.5 miles (4km) north of Grant Grove. It offers 10 miles (16km) of

marked winter routes, including a ski trail to the Chicago Stump at the edge of Converse Basin grove. Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. The stump is a remnant of a tree taken to exhibit at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

South of Grant Grove on the Generals Highway are two trailheads with restrooms:

- **Quail Flat** (6 miles/9.6km south of Hwy 180) has 23 miles (37km) of trails and snowmobile routes. Some connect to Big Meadows.
- **Big Meadows** (8 miles/13km south of Hwy 180) offers 23 miles (37km) of marked, groomed trails and routes that traverse meadows and forest. One route goes to the 1916 Buck Rock Fire Lookout (the tower is closed in winter).

THE FLOOR OF THE KINGS CANYON

Highway 180 down into the canyon closes in winter due to rock falling from the canyon walls onto the road. You can get a good view out over the canyon between Hume Lake Road junction on Hwy 180 and Hume Lake. The road reopens mid-April; return then if you can to enjoy one of our nation's deepest gorges. See page 9 "In the Kings Canyon" for details.

IN KINGS CANYON PARK

83rd Annual Nation's Christmas Tree Ceremony

December 14, 2008 at 2:30 pm

Held annually at the base of the General Grant Tree on the second Sunday of December

This event celebrates both the season and two special honors given to the Grant Tree:

~ President Coolidge designated it the official Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926 (the "National Christmas Tree" is lit on the Mall in Washington, D.C.).

~ In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower proclaimed the tree the only living National Shrine, and had his personal representative, Fleet Admiral Nimitz, officially dedicate it on Veteran's Day that year.

Each year during the ceremony, National Park Rangers place a large wreath at the base of this giant sequoia in memory of men and women who gave their lives in service to their country. Caroling and readings are also part of the ceremony.

The event is sponsored by the Sanger Chamber of Commerce. Parking is limited. Chartered buses from Sanger are available. Information: 559-875-4575.



FACILITIES IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

Giant Forest Area

GIANT FOREST SEQUOIA GROVE

6400' (1950m) elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees, it offers 40 miles (64 km) of walking, cross-country skiing, or snowshoeing trails. See highlights on page 6.

- **Giant Forest Museum (NPS):** Daily 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits about the Big Trees. Books, maps, first aid. 1-559-565-4480. No payphone; closest are at Lodgepole & Wolverton (don't rely on cell phones).

CRYSTAL CAVE - REOPENS NEXT SUMMER

One of the highlights of the park! Tours are expected to begin May 9. 1-559-565-4251 or www.sequoiahistory.org for more information. Be sure to return for a summer tour.

Lodgepole Area

LODGEPOLE VILLAGE

6700' (2040 m) elevation. A few miles north of Giant Forest, in beautiful Tokopah Canyon along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River.

INFORMATION (NPS)

- **Wilderness Permits:** Required for backcountry overnight trips. Self-issue outside on the front of the visitor center. See page 4 for details. 1-559-565-3766.
- **Visitor Center:** Closed until spring. Exhibits on geology & forest life; books; maps; first aid.

PAY TELEPHONES

- **In Lodgepole Village:** Outside visitor center & market (cell phone signals are usually poor).

FOOD & SHOPS (DNCPR) - Closed until spring:

- **Lodgepole Market, Gift Shop, & Laundry:** Reopens April 2009.
- **Snack Bar:** Reopens May 2009.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Post Office:** Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. 1-559-565-3678. Lobby with stamp machine open 24 hours. Address mail to visitors: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262.
- **Lodgepole Campground (NPS):** Open all year. Details on page 11.
- **Showers (DNCPR):** Closed; reopen in May 2009, 9am-1pm & 3-5:45pm.

WUKSACHI LODGE & DINING ROOM

7200' (2160 m) elevation. Open year-round 4 miles (6.4 km) north of the General Sherman Tree. The center for lodging, food services, and cross-country ski & snowshoe rentals in Sequoia Park.

PAY TELEPHONES: Downstairs at the main lodge. Cell phone signals are usually poor.

FOOD, SHOPS & LODGING (DNCPR) - Hours increase late May.

- **Dining Room:** Daily: 7:30-9:30am; 11:30am-2:30pm; 5-8:30pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070. Lounge daily 4:30-8:30pm.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-8pm. Film, souvenirs, crafts, clothing, snacks.
- **Wuksachi Lodge:** See page 10 for details. Front desk 24 hours.
- **Alta Market & Ski Shop:** Ski & snowshoe rentals & food: Daily 10am-6pm downstairs in the lodge. Once snow falls, hot & cold drinks, snacks, food, snowplay equipment & toys for sale.



**Delaware North Companies
Parks & Resorts
and the
National Park Foundation
have made it easy for Wuksachi Lodge
guests to contribute to these parks.
Ask about the Guest Donation Program
when you check in!**

Wolverton Snowplay Area

Sledding hills two miles (3.2 km) north of the Sherman Tree. After storms, it may take several hours for plows to open the area.

- **Be safe & considerate!** Every year we see very serious injuries. Safety tips: Use devices that are steerable. Don't sled or ski into roads. Steer clear of trees, rocks, people, and other obstacles. See safety information on page 5.
- **Cross-country skis & snowshoes** are rented, and snowplay gear, snacks, and hot drinks sold at Wuksachi (see left column).
- **Snowplay is prohibited** in park residential areas, the Sherman Tree Trail area, and other areas as signed.
- **Pay telephone** is outside the building next to the restroom building. Dial 911 in emergencies. Cell phone signals are poor.

Foothills Area

500-3500' (457-1067 m) elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters; & the greatest biological diversity in these parks. Park headquarters is at Ash Mountain.

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits, books, maps, bear canisters, first aid, local wilderness permits. 1-559-565-3135.
- **Potwisha Campground (NPS):** Year-round. Details on page 11.
- **Pay Telephones** (cell phone signals are usually poor): Foothills Visitor Center near front door, Potwisha Campground, Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

Mineral King Area

*The road to this area is closed
November 1 through late May.*

NOTE: Mineral King Road is gated at the park boundary (about 9 miles from Highway 198). With a permit from the Foothills Visitor Center (see hours above), visitors can go through this gate as far as the old winter gate, another 8 miles up (weather permitting). The end of the road is 8 miles beyond that.

7800' (2380 m) elevation. A subalpine valley at the end of a steep, narrow, difficult road. When it is open, no RVs, buses, or trailers, please. No electricity or gas; no drinking water in campgrounds in fall.

- **Ranger Station (NPS):** Closed for season. Self-register for wilderness permits on the porch.
- **Pay Telephones:** Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area. Cell phone signals are usually poor.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Closed through late May. Cabins, chalets, bakery, showers, small store (gifts, limited supplies & ice; no gasoline or fishing licenses), restaurant. Pay telephone. 1-559-561-3223; winter 805-528-2730; www.silvercityresort.com.
- **Camping (NPS):** No RVs or trailers. Details: page 11.

FREE NATURE PROGRAMS IN SEQUOIA PARK

**Usually offered on weekends and holidays.
Ask at visitor centers and see local bulletin boards
for times, locations, and topics.**

IN THE GIANT FOREST & WUKSACHI LODGE:

Rangers may offer walks and talks from late December through early April. **Snowshoe walks** are offered once enough snow falls, (snowshoes provided free). Group size is limited; make reservations at any visitor center or call 1-559-565-4480. Snowshoeing may be strenuous and difficult for small children. Not enough snow? Look for alternate programs.

IN THE FOOTHILLS:

Starting in March: Watch for weekend wildflower walks.

FACILITIES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS

Grant Grove Area

GRANT GROVE VILLAGE

6600' (2008 m) elevation. This was originally General Grant National Park, created in 1890 to protect sequoias from logging. Here you can see both a pristine grove & one that was logged in the 1800s.

INFORMATION

- **Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits & 15-minute movie in English and Spanish. Books, maps, first aid, bear canisters. Local wilderness permits issued 9am-4pm. 1-559-565-4307.

FOOD & SHOPS (KCPS) – Hours increase late March

- **Restaurant:** Daily 9am-2pm & 5-7pm (Fridays & Saturdays until 8pm).
- **Gift Shop, Market:** Daily 9am-6pm (Fridays & Saturdays until 7pm). Souvenirs, film, clothing, ATM. Market sells food and other supplies, sandwiches, bear canisters, emergency gas.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping & Lodging:** See page 10-II. Lodge front desk 7am-10pm.
- **Post Office:** Hours may change without notice. Monday-Friday 9am -3:30 pm; Saturday 10 -noon. Lobby open 24 hours. Send mail for visitors to: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.
- **Pay Telephones:** Available 24 hours at Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); & outside gift shop, market, & post office. Cell phone signals are usually poor.

Snowplay Areas

In the National Park (Grant Grove): Columbine & Big Stump.

In the National Forest: Cherry Gap and, when the Generals Highway is not closed by snow, Big Meadows & Quail Flat.

- **Be safe & considerate!** Every year we see very serious injuries. Safety tips: Use devices that are steerable. Don't sled or ski into roads. Steer clear of trees, rocks, people, and other obstacles. See safety information on page 5.
- **Cross-country skis & snowshoes** are rented, and snowplay gear, snacks, and hot drinks are sold at Grant Grove Market.
- **Snowplay is prohibited** in park residential areas, the Grant Tree Trail area, and other areas as signed. Azalea Campground is for campers only, not people who are just snowplaying.
- **Note the location of pay telephones.** Dial 911 in emergencies. Cell phone signals are usually poor.

In the Kings Canyon

Highway 180 from Hume Lake Junction into the canyon remains closed mid-November to late April.

CEDAR GROVE VILLAGE - CLOSED FOR SEASON

4600' (1410 m) elevation. This glaciated valley features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the powerful Kings River. It is "a rival to the Yosemite," according to John Muir.

- **Camping & Lodging:** Details on pages 10-II. Closed for the season.
- **Restaurant, Gift Shop, Market, Showers, & Laundry:** Closed.



GRANT GROVE FREE NATURE PROGRAMS

Check local bulletin boards and visitor centers for schedules. Join us!

Snowshoe walks: 2 hours. On weekends, if there is enough snow, starting December 26. Snowshoes are loaned for free. Group size is limited; make reservations at any visitor center or call 1-559-565-4307. Snowshoeing may be strenuous and difficult for small children.

Additional programs: May be offered on weekends and holidays.

Pay Your Entrance Fee at Kings Canyon Visitor Center in Grant Grove

During winter, the required park and forest entrance fee is collected just outside the visitor center.

Please stop there to purchase or show your pass.

There are also cannisters for payment at the snowplay areas at Big Stump and Columbine.

USFS: National Forest & Monument

HUME LAKE & BIG MEADOWS AREAS (FS)

Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, borders much of the western edge of these National Parks. You are in the National Forest when you drive between the park areas of Lodgepole and Grant Grove, and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove (see page 2 for more on Parks and Forests). It was sold to the government as a Forest Reserve in 1935. It is an excellent place to see sequoias recovering from intensive logging in the late 1800s.

PAY TELEPHONES (cell phone signals are usually poor):

- **Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove:** Summer only at Stony Creek Resort & Big Meadows trailhead.
- **Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove:** Hume Lake (year round; see *Hume Lake* below); Kings Canyon Lodge (summer only).

INFORMATION

- **USFS Hume Lake District Office (FS):** 35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in Dunlap, 19 miles (31 km) west of Kings Canyon Park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am- 4:30pm. Maps & books sold. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

LODGING & OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (FS) & Lodging (private):** See pages 10 & 11 for details.
- **Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee):** Open all year. A resort on public land. On Generals Highway 9 miles (14.5km) south of Grant Grove. Breakfast 8-9am, lunch 12-1pm, dinner 6-7pm (hours increase in spring). Cabins, hotel, children's and winter activities, cross country skiing. 1-800-227-9900 or 559-565-3388.
- **Hume Lake:** Year-round private facilities open to public: 24-hour laundry (coin operated) & gas station (with credit card). Market daily 8am-5pm. Snack shop. North of Grant Grove 8 miles (13km) on Hwy 180 then 3 miles (5 km) south (turn right) on Hume Lake Road. 1-559-335-2000.
- **Boyden Cavern:** Closed until late April when Highway 180 reopens. On Highway 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove.
- **Stony Creek Village (FS):** Closed mid-October to mid-May. On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Restaurant, lodging, market, showers, gasoline. 1-866-KCANYON; 1-559-565-3909.
- **Big Meadows Cabin (FS)** historic guard station: Closed; see page 10.

GASOLINE SALES on PARK and FOREST LANDS

- From mid-November into April, only at Hume Lake (24 hours with credit card) or outside the park. See *Hume Lake* above for details.

Staying Overnight

CAMPING DOs & DON'Ts: These rules protect the park & you!

NOTE: Rules may vary between the Park to the National Forest. Check page 2 for details.

KEEP FOOD FROM BEARS!

It's required all year! Learn how to do it correctly — see below.

CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

Check bulletin boards for restrictions before starting any fire. Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs from trees. Better yet, bring wood or buy it at a market. Fires must be out cold before you leave. In the national forest & monument you must get a free campfire permit from the Hume Lake District Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), or a Forest Service ranger.

ROADSIDE CAMPING?

It's not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In the National Forest & Monument, roadside camping is permitted unless posted otherwise. Ask a ranger for possible locations.

NO HOLDING CAMPSITES

You may not hold a site for someone who has not arrived. Sites not occupied for 24 hours are considered abandoned; property may be impounded.

GROUP SITES & MAXIMUM GROUP SIZES

UP TO 6: Many campgrounds allow only one vehicle & six people per site. Check locally for slight variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.

7 TO 19: In summer, Crystal Springs (Grant Grove) has first-come, first-served sites for groups of 7-15. Canyon View in Cedar Grove has sites for 7-19. \$35/site.

LARGER: Call in advance for information on requesting summer group tent-camping sites: For Sunset or Canyon View 1-559-565-4335 (5/1-10/31: 565-3792 for Canyon View). To reserve a group site in Dorst or in the national forest/monument: 1-877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov.

TIME LIMITS ON CAMPING

Camping stays are limited to 14 days between June 14 and September 14, with 30 days total per year.

QUIET & GENERATOR HOURS

10pm-6am. Generator use: At Lodgepole & Dorst only 8-11am & 5-8pm; at other campgrounds 9am-9pm only. Music should be audible in your campsite only.

RVS & TRAILERS

No hookups are available.

Dump stations: See chart on page 11.

Trailers are permitted in all but four park campgrounds; check the chart on page 11. Many sites are not suitable for trailers or RVs. Sites may not be level. Vehicles over 30 feet long can fit in a small number of sites.

Length advisory: On the Generals Highway in Sequoia Park, from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum, advised vehicle length limit is 22 feet. See page 5 for other limits & warnings.

PROPANE CANISTERS

Do not put propane or other fuel canisters in park trash cans or leave them in the parks. Take them with you when you leave.

BE A VOLUNTEER HOST!

Live in the park, take care of campgrounds & resources, & meet great people! Learn about volunteer opportunities; contact the Park Volunteer Coordinator, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651.



save a bear!

Sales from the Save-a-Bear Kit & color pin (above) directly support bear management. See the pins at visitor centers.

LODGING

SEQUOIA PARK

• Wuksachi Village (DNCPR)

Reservations: 1-888-252-5757
Front Desk: 1-559-565-4070
www.visitsequoia.com. Open all year. North of Giant Forest Museum 6 miles (9.6 km). Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

* Silver City Mountain Resort

Summer: 1-559-561-3223
Winter: 1-805-528-2730
www.silvercityresort.com. Open late May to mid-October. Cabins, chalets, supplies, restaurant, gifts, bakery, showers. No gas.

KINGS CANYON PARK

• Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge (KCPS)

Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-335-5500
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open all year. In Grant Grove. Hotel all year, cabins, restaurant, showers, store, gifts.

• Cedar Grove Lodge (KCPS)

Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-565-0100
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. May 16 to October 18. In the Kings Canyon. Motel, public showers, restaurant, laundry, store.

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/ MONUMENT AREA

• Montecito Lake Resort (formerly Montecito-Sequoia Lodge)

Reservations: 1-800-227-9900
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3388
www.mslodge.com. Open all year. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, lodge, seasonal & children's activities.

• Stony Creek Lodge (KCPS)

Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3909.
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open early May - mid-October. On Generals Highway between Grant Grove & Lodgepole. Restaurant, market, showers, gas, hotel.

• Big Meadows Cabin (FS)

1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov. Open mid-June to mid-October. An historic guard station in the National Monument between Grant Grove & Lodgepole.

* Kings Canyon Lodge (Private)

Reservations: 1-559-335-2405
Open mid-April to mid-November. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove.

* **Note:** Privately owned and on private land, these facilities cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by the NPS or USFS.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging, camping, & services. Ask at visitor centers or check www.nps.gov/seki, click PLAN YOUR VISIT then link to LODGING.

WILDERNESS LODGE & PERMITS

See page 4.

YOU MUST STORE ALL FOOD!

BEARS quickly learn to get food from cars, picnic tables, and backpacks. They then become destructive and sometimes aggressive. They want our food, not us, but people can get hurt. Too often these bears must be killed. This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly.

• **DRIVERS:** Never leave any food or scented item in cars. Take infant seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

• **CAMPERS:** Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (see page 11 for box sizes; avoid bringing coolers that won't fit). Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even if it's not food) -- including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, store food in the car trunk (seal food to reduce odors). If the car has no trunk, put everything on the floor, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food.

• **PICKNICKERS:** Guard your food at all times.

• **LODGE GUESTS:** Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.

• **BACKPACKERS:** Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few backcountry locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at park visitor centers or markets. Bears defeat most attempts to hang food in trees.

• **EVERYONE:** Don't let bears approach you or your food. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks in their direction (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. If a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

Each campsite has a table & fire ring with grill; no hook-ups.

Food-storage is required! Always read & follow instructions on bulletin boards to help save a bear! See other rules on page 10.

*Summer reservations for Dorst & Lodgepole (in Sequoia NP) & for reservable campgrounds marked * below in the National Forest (USFS) may be made up to 6 months in advance of the date desired. Contact www.recreation.gov or 1-877-444-6777, 7am -9pm PST from 3/1-10/31, then 7am-7pm. Customer service: 1-888-448-1474.

CAMP GROUNDS

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

"Nearby"-Within 2 miles/ 3.2km
✓ -Year-round
✱ -Summer only

FOOD STORAGE: Avoid bringing items that won't fit in bear boxes. Symbols next to the campground name on the chart below tell the size of bear-proof food-storage boxes available there:

- # One small box per site (47" long x 17" deep x 16" high);
- ◆ One large box per site (at least 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high);
- ⊠ A mix of box sizes;
- + Additional boxes available for sites to share.

	# of sites	Daily Fee	Rest-rooms	Food within 2 miles	Showers within 2 miles	Laundry within 2 miles	Dump Station Nearby	Nature Programs Nearby	Pay Phone	Riding within 2 miles	River within 2 miles	Sequoias within 2 miles
	#	\$										

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

FOOTHILLS AREA Elevation 2100'-3600'. Lowest in elevation, therefore usually snow free.

Potwisha ◆ Open all year.	40	\$18	Flush				✓	✱	✓		✓	
Buckeye Flat ◆ Reopens late March/early April. No trailers or RVs.	28	\$18	Flush				at Potwisha	✱			✓	
South Fork # Closed Non-potable water only.	10	\$12 May -Sept.	Vault								✓	

MINERAL KING AREA Elevation 6650' - 7500'. Area closed 11/1 to 5/22 (weather permitting). No RVs or trailers.

Atwell Mill # Closed.	22	\$12	Vault	✱	✱			✱			✓	✓
Cold Springs # Closed.	40	\$12	Vault	at Silver City	at Silver City			✱	✓		✓	

LODGEPOLE AREA Elevation 6700'. *= reservable in summer up to 6 months in advance (see Reservations above.)

* Lodgepole ⊠ + Open all year. Reservation period late May - early Oct.	205	\$20/18/10 \$20 during reservation period, \$18 spring/fall; \$10 after snow reduces amenities.	Flush	✱	✱	✱	✱	✓	✓		✓	✓
* Dorst ⊠ + Closed.	210	\$20	Flush				✱	✱	✱		✓	✓

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

GRANT GROVE AREA Elevation 6500'. Camping fees drop to \$10 when snow limits facilities.

Azalea ◆ Open all year.	110	\$18/10	Flush	✓	✱			✓	at village	✱		✓
Crystal Springs ◆ Closed. Sites for groups of 7-15 (see page 10): 14	36	\$18 \$35	Flush	✓	✱			✓	"	✱		✓
Sunset ◆ Closed.	157	\$18	Flush	✓	✱			✓	"	✱		✓

CEDAR GROVE AREA (ON THE FLOOR OF THE KINGS CANYON) Elevation 4600'. Area closed until late April.

Sentinel ◆ + Closed.	82	\$18	Flush	✱	✱	✱		✱	at visitor center	✱	✓	
Sheep Creek ◆+ Closed.	111	\$18	Flush	✱	✱	✱		✱	"	✱	✓	
Canyon View ◆ Closed. No RVs or trailers.Sites for groups (see page 10):	23	\$18 \$35	Flush	✱	✱	✱		✱	"	✱	✓	
Moraine ◆ Closed.	120	\$18	Flush	✱	✱	✱		✱	"	✱	✓	

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT (USFS)

HUME LAKE AREA Elevation 4000' - 5900'. Opening dates depend on spring weather. * = reservable in summer.

* Princess Closed.	88	\$17 single	Vault				✱\$7	✱			✓	✓
Dump station not recommended for vehicles over 30 feet long.												
* Hume Lake + Closed.	74	\$19 "	Flush	✓		✓		✱	✓		✓	
Tenmile No water. Open until snowfall.	13	\$15	Vault								✓	✓
Landslide Closed.	9	\$15	Vault								✓	✓
Convict Flat No water. Last night 11/13.	5		Vault								✓	

BIG MEADOWS & STONY CREEK AREA Elevation 6400-7500'. Opening dates depend on weather. *= reservable in summer.

* Stony Creek # Closed.	49	\$19 single	Flush	✱	✱	✱		✱	at lodge		✓	✓
Upper Stony # Closed.	18	\$15	Vault	✱	✱	✱			at lodge		✓	✓
Horse Camp No water. Open until snowfall. 5+			Vault								✓	
Buck Rock " "	11		Vault									
Big Meadow " "	40		Vault					✱	by trailhead	✓	✓	

PARK ROADS

- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Lodging
- Horses/riding
- Gas station

Major paved road

Minor paved road

Unpaved road

Park boundary

STEEP ROADS:

Grades of 5-8%.
Downshift to avoid
overheated or failed
brakes. See page 5.

DRIVING TIME IN GOOD WEATHER:

FROM FOOTHILLS TO:
Giant Forest - 1 hour.
Lodgepole - 1 hour.
Visalia - 1 hour.
Mineral King - 1-1/2
hour. Road closed
Nov 1 to late May.

FROM GIANT FOREST TO
Grant Grove - 1 hour.

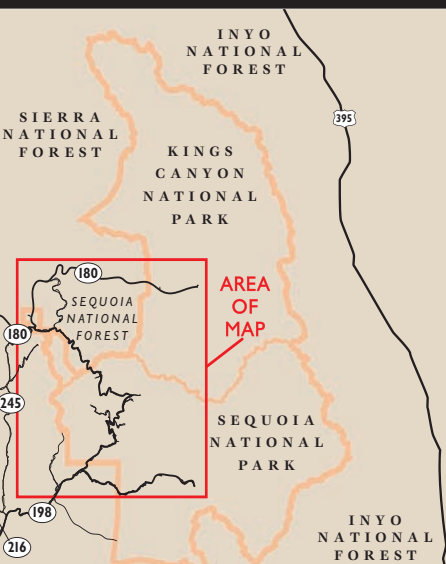
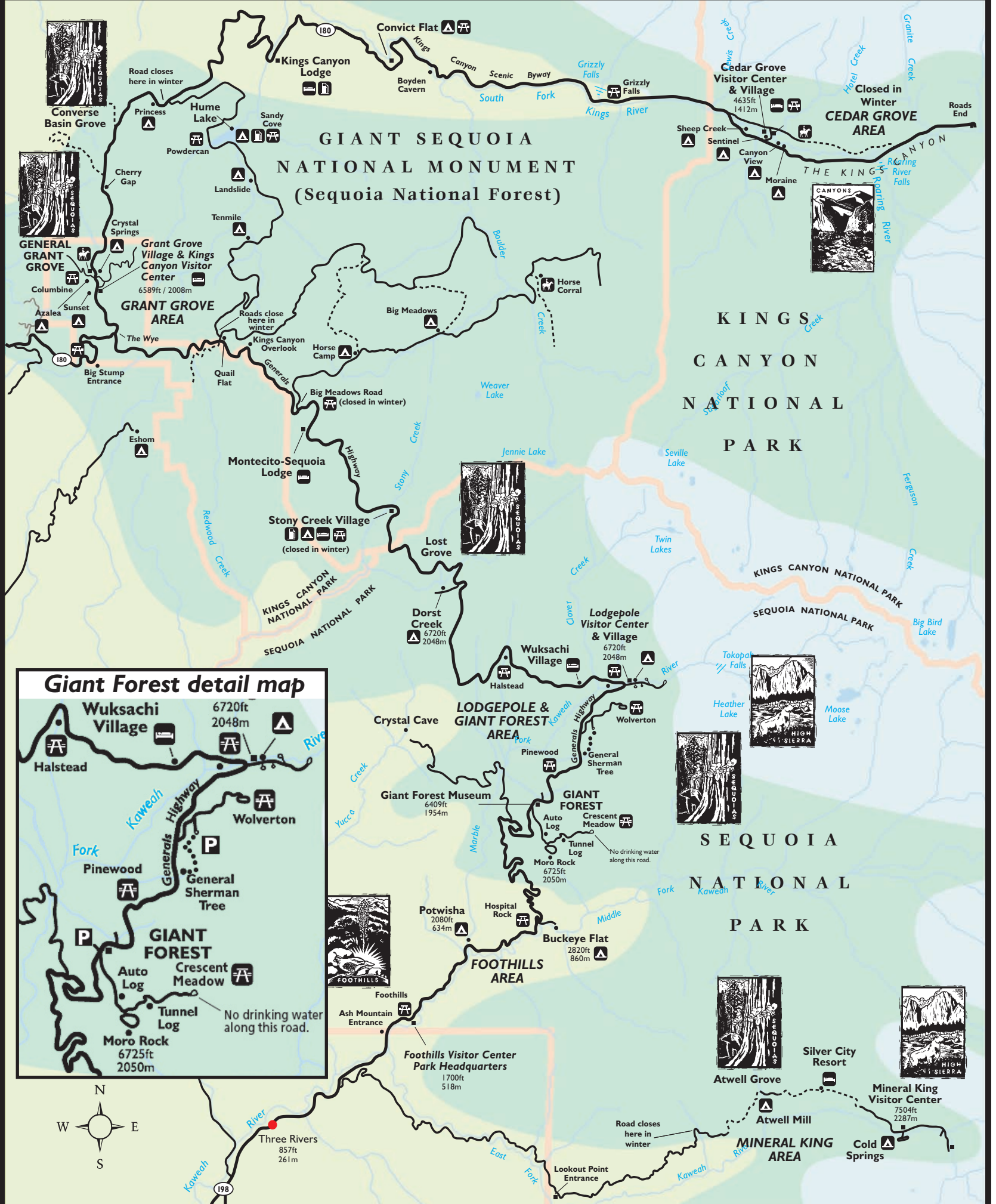
FROM GRANT GROVE TO:
Cedar Grove - 1 hour.
Road closed mid-
Nov to late April.
Fresno - 1-1/2 hours.
Yosemite south entry
via Hwy 41 - 3 hrs.

LIFE ZONES:

High Sierra -
9,000 to 14,500 feet.
Summer: Warm to chilly
days; nights down to
low 30s. Winter: frigid.

Conifer zone -
5,000 to 9,000 feet.
Summer: Warm days &
cool nights. Winter: deep
snow, cold days.

Foothills zone -
1,500 to 5,000 feet.
Mild, wet winters; hot,
dry summers. Cedar
Grove is cooler than the
foothills, but hotter than
Grant Grove.



WINTER 2008-09

**SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON
NATIONAL PARKS**

47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651

Third Class Mail
Postage & Fees Paid
U.S. Department of the Interior G-83

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA!